(b) to (d) As on 30-11-1985, 32 posts of Chief Executives and 30 posts of Functional Directors were vacant. Recruitment action has already been initiated to fill up the existing vacancies except in those cases where the post have been kept in abeyance pending consideration of re-organisation of some public enterprises.

As per existing policy, these appointees are given an initial tennure of two years and subject to their satisfactory performance, their tenures are further extended upto a period of five years with the condition that the extended tenure will not go beyond their date of superannuation.

Government also keeps a close watch on the vacancy position and initiates advance action wherever possible to expedite selection. Among the other steps taken in this regard, mention may be made of the systematic holding of interviews by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PCSB) which meet normally twice a week for this purpose.

Measures for preventing industrial units going sick

2664. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government propose to take regarding prevention of industrial units going sick; and

(b) what are the latest figures of sick industrial units, large, medium and small, and scheduled banks capital locked in those units, and number of unemployed labour because of the sickness of the units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) To deal with the problem of industrial sickness in the country, Government have issued certain policy guidelines for guidance of Central Ministries, State Governments and Banks and Financial Institutions in October, 1981. The salient features of these guidelines were furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 700 on 15-7-1982.

Also the bill viz. 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1985' has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 9th December, 1985 which provides, *inter-alia* for timely detection of sick and potentially sick industrial units and for establishment of a quasijudicial body to be designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction with powers to consider suitable remedial measures for speedy rehablitation of potentially viable sick industrial units.

(b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. As per the latest data furnished by it, the number of sick units and the amount outstanding against these units as on 31st December, 1984 (Provisional) are shown below:

	No. of Sick Units	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Large . . .	545	2330.12
Medium . . .	1287	408.58
Small Scale . .	91,450	879.69
	93,282	3638.39

Data on number of workers employed in these sick units is neither centrally maintained in this Ministry nor collected by the Reserve Bank of India.

2665. [*Transferred to the 17th December, 1985*]

Allotments of Vespa Xe scooters by M/s. Lohia Machines

2666. SHRI RAM CHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for allotment of Vespa Xe scooters received by M/s. Lohia Machines, Kanpur after

the product was advertised by the Company over T.V. and other media;

(b) how many scooters have been allotted to the applicants so far;

(c) whether as per the advertisement of M|s. Lohia Machines, Kanpur over T.V. three hundred scooters are being produced every day; if so, how many scooters are being allotted to the applicants every day; and

(d) whether it is a fact that due to excessive advertisements given by the said company, the issue price of their scooter has increased considerably, if so, how much money has been spent by the Company for advertisement through various media so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Out of about 23 lakhs applications initially registered with the Company, over 44 thousand scooters were delivered upto 30.11.1985.

(c) The Company has attained a production level of about 300 scooters per working day. A minimum of 95 per cent of production is delivered to the waitlisted applicants leaving a maximum of 5 per cent for discretionary allotments by the company.

(d) No, Sir.

Production of bathing soaps

2667. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of bathing soaps in the country during the last three years;

(b) the corresponding prices of bathing soaps during the last three years; and

(c) whether there have been any rise in their prices during the same period if so, what steps Government have taken to bring down their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The total production of bathing soaps in the organised sector during the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Production (in Lakh Tonnes)
1982	1.85
1983	2.18
1984	2.26

(b) The average price index of bathing soaps during the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	(Base 1970-71=100) Average price index
1982	230.3
1983	255.9
1984	310.4

(c) The increase in the prices of soaps is primarily due to increase in the prices of soapery oils used for the manufacture of soaps. Government have authorised imports of Split Palm Stearine Fatty Acid and Palm Fatty Acid Distillate to increase the availability of soapery oils in the country. Government have also taken steps to increase the production and availability of nonedible minor oils such as Rice Bran etc., to encourage maximum availability of indigenous substitute for imported soapery oil.

Excess billing and disconnection of telephones

2668. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 888 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1985 and state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received against excess telephone bills during the last two years;